



Allen C. Haskell Park

NEW BEDFORD



In the heart of New Bedford lies the Haskell property: six acres with beautifully landscaped gardens, historic buildings, and more than half an acre of greenhouse space. The Haskell property provides an unrivaled opportunity for The Trustees of Reservations to save precious urban green space and to engage South Coast communities through horticulture and agriculture.

The late Allen C. Haskell, a lifelong New Bedford resident and famed horticulturalist, assembled the property over more than 30 years, creating a truly unique and successful nursery. The property is now on the market and is at risk of being sold and developed as a subdivision.

There is an alternative. In February of 2012, the City of New Bedford approached The Trustees of

Reservations to explore a partnership with the City and the community to protect this unique piece of open space and cultural history. In July 2012, The Trustees entered into a purchase-and-sale agreement to acquire the property. Now, we are seeking your help to realize the community's vision to transform these six acres into a thriving, active, and engaging urban park.

THE VISION

Urban green space across Massachusetts – and, indeed, across the country – is disappearing. Safeguarding the open space we already have is absolutely critical to the health and well-being of our city neighborhoods. We are also witnessing the troubling trend of our children spending more time indoors in front of screens and much less time outside in the natural world. The future Allen C. Haskell Park seeks to address both of these pressing issues by creating an urban reservation – a community resource with unique programs designed to engage children in the natural world and that also capitalizes on The Trustees' legacy of protecting and bringing to life the special places of Massachusetts.

To explore and create a shared vision for the Allen C. Haskell Park, The Trustees have engaged a wide



The Trustees will restore and maintain the Haskell property's beautiful gardens for the entire community to enjoy.

range of organizations and individuals – including local conservation groups, garden clubs, social-service groups, educational institutions,

neighborhood groups, government agencies, departments within the City of New Bedford, individual donors, foundations, and local farmers.

OUR SHARED VISION HAS EVOLVED TO ENCOMPASS FOUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES:

- The Haskell property is a **unique landscape** with beautifully designed gardens and one of the oldest homes in New Bedford. It is critical that the gardens be preserved and celebrated in order to honor the Haskell horticultural legacy, serve the community, and advance The Trustees' mission.
- As a lifelong New Bedford resident, Allen Haskell's **legacy of excellence** in one's chosen field is powerful and relevant in a community that suffers from educational underachievement and high unemployment.
- The Trustees must bring our own legacy of exemplary stewardship combined with a commitment to **engage many more people** in our work of land conservation. Our care of the property will be the foundation on which the community engagement is built.
- To succeed, this project must be **highly relevant to the community**. In a city with a rich history (particularly in horticulture) and a population beset with numerous social issues, this new public park will provide opportunities for a wide range of programs and services to celebrate that history and to counter the social challenges.

THE PLAN

Preserve & Create A Sustainable Landscape

The Haskell Park will become an exceptional public park. Of the handful of parks in New Bedford, none comes close to this combination of historic structures, buildings for public use, landscaped grounds, and open space. By preserving the structures and restoring the gardens, The Trustees will create an oasis accessible to a population that does not have such green or open space. This setting will provide inspiration, year-round beauty, and contemplative space. The Trustees are pursuing partnerships with UMass-Dartmouth's Sustainability Department and the Greater New Bedford Regional Vocational Technical High School to renovate the structures using sustainable building practices. The variety of smaller, but just as beautiful, sheds, labs, offices, and storefronts will be transformed into educational, community gathering, and work spaces. The land currently comprised of existing gardens, vacant planting beds, and greenhouses will serve as a foundation for robust public engagement. The Trustees will keep a portion of the land open and available for community events: farmers markets, concerts, art exhibits, cultural festivals, and private celebrations.

Grow Urban Agriculture & Horticulture

The gardens, open fields, and 30,000 square feet of greenhouse space provide a variety of platforms for The Trustees to create horticultural and agricultural initiatives that are relevant to the community. These initiatives will be focused on garden restoration and maintenance, urban food production, and youth programs, all supported by our shared guiding principles.

Allen Haskell's gardens anchor the landscape and buildings. The Trustees will restore and maintain these gardens through our **Garden Restoration and Maintenance Initiative**. Managed by Trustees' staff, this program will work with volunteers and create partnerships with local garden clubs and youth programs. These efforts will be augmented through horticultural internships and public workshops. The greenhouses will, as the program evolves, grow plants that will maintain the landscaped grounds and be sold at an annual plant sale.

The Trustees will create a **Growing Program**, focused on increasing appreciation, education, and involvement in local food production. The program will engage local groups

The property's sheds, offices, and other buildings will become educational, community gathering, and work spaces.



and organizations in the neighborhood and throughout the Greater New Bedford region, including Brickenwood and Presidential Heights low-income housing, local social-service agencies, and residential neighbors. This program will be inspired by successful urban farming models such as Growing Power in Milwaukee, The Trustees' affiliate Boston Natural Areas Network, and the Food Project's Dudley Greenhouse in Roxbury, which have transformed communities by connecting residents to local food production. The outside planting beds will be redesigned to grow fresh fruits and vegetables and will be used to create a variety of demonstration gardens for the community, including an herbal garden, edible yards, and ethnically relevant produce gardens. Each garden will be developed into "garden kits" that can be replicated in backyards or in schoolyards. Additionally, the Growing Program will serve as a hub for other Trustees farms including Weir River Farm, Westport Town Farm, and Cornell Farm.

The Garden Restoration and Maintenance Program and the Growing Program will be supported by two New Bedford teams of The Trustees' South Coast Youth Conservation Corps. The Corps provides life and business-skills development, community service, and training in agriculture and horticulture to New Bedford youth.

An **Outdoor Discovery Garden** for children rounds out The Trustees' initiatives. A thoughtfully crafted and maintained children's garden will create a unique resource for the children of the South Coast to reconnect to nature. It will include a variety of spaces for growing and nurturing plants, creating art, climbing, crawling, playing, and exploring the outside environment. The curriculum will build on the



An Outdoor Discovery Garden will connect children to nature in fun and unique ways.

Haskell property's unique combination of horticulture, agriculture, and history, and be sure to inspire children and visitors, young and old alike.

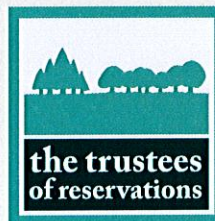
THE OPPORTUNITY

The Allen C. Haskell Park is a truly unique opportunity to protect vital open space and engage the local community and greater South Coast region – especially its children – in an exciting, meaningful, and compelling way. The Trustees are now seeking to raise \$2.6 million for the acquisition, renovation, initial operation, and endowment costs to make this vision a reality.

Your support will ensure a vibrant future for this special place – and contribute to fostering a diverse and thriving urban park for the City of New Bedford and the South Coast.

To learn how you can support the Allen C. Haskell Park project, please contact:

John Vasconcellos
Southeast Regional Director
508.636.4693 | jvasconcellos@ttor.org
www.thetrustees.com/newbedford



www.thetrustees.org

The Trustees of Reservations preserve, for public use and enjoyment, properties of exceptional scenic, historic, and ecological value in Massachusetts. Together with our neighbors, we protect the distinct character of our communities and inspire a commitment to our special places.